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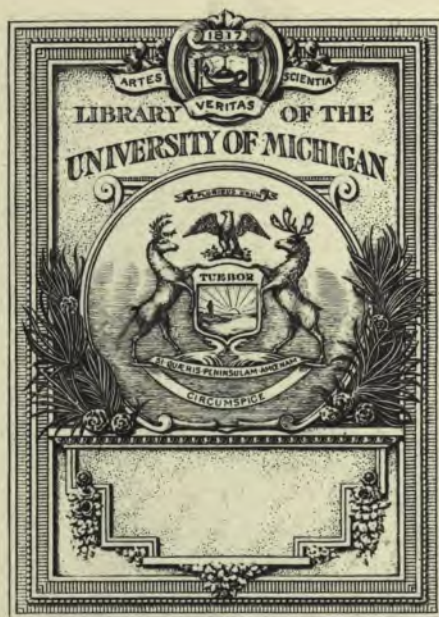
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NARRATIVE

Of the Last Moments of

THE LIFE

OF

DON AUGUSTINE DE ITURBIDE,

EX-EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

BY COLONEL CHARLES DE BENESKI.

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED FOR AND SOLD BY JAMES BLACK,

56 PINE-STREET.

1825.

PRINTED BY TYRELL & TOMPRINS, TO BOWERY.



H. J. Carver.

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A NARRATIVE, &c.



It was with feelings of deep regret that I beheld the public prints teeming with equivocal statements in relation to the death of Don Augustin de Iturbide, ex-Emperor of Mexico. The love which I bore to that great man, the gratitude I shall ever feel for his kindness, and above all the regard I entertain for the reputation of his honourable and unfortunate family, impel me thus publicly, to step forward in vindication of his memory, and also lead me to consider it a duty which I owe to myself, to present the world with a true relation of the disastrous events that led to the unhappy fate and untimely end of the Liberator of Mexico.

I had the honour of serving under the command of this hero, and enjoyed the favour of being included among the number of his most faithful adherents and intimate friends. A perfect knowledge of the rectitude of his principles and views, a full persuasion that love of country alone induced him to return to Mexico, a thorough conviction that he had no other object in contemplation than the union, tranquillity, and happiness of the Mexican people, that he was devoid of

ambition, or any interested motives, exempt from all revengeful sentiments, and breathing nothing but a spirit of forbearance towards his enemies ; these led me to accompany him as his aid-de-camp, and in this character, to attach myself to his person and his fortunes, and with honest pride, I assert, that I never abandoned my benefactor till that eventful hour which closed the career of this truly distinguished soldier.

I do not undertake his defence, nor shall I even endeavour to undeceive the public as to the various false allegations which his enemies have preferred against him ; I rest satisfied with what time and impartial history shall transmit to posterity in relation to the life and political conduct of Iturbide, and restrict myself to a faithful account of his death, in the ardent hope, that it may hereafter serve as an historical document, and remain a record of the last moments of this extraordinary personage.

The ex-Emperor Iturbide embarked at the isle of Wight, the 11th May last, on board the English merchant brig, *Spring*, after having previously tendered his services to the Mexican government, and nation, in a communication which accompanies this statement ;* and in the afternoon of the 12th July, arrived off the bar of *Soto la Marina*. The following day he despatched me to the town so called, distant about sixteen leagues from the sea, for the purpose of making inquiries in relation to the occurrences which had lately taken place in Mexico, and of informing myself with respect to the general state of the nation. On my arrival, I presented myself to General Don Felipe de la Garza, Commandant General of that place, and governor of the state of las Tamaulipas, who immediately recognizing me (having formerly seen me in the military service of Mexico,) demanded, what was my object in returning. I replied, that I came on commercial business, being commissioned by several mer-

* See documents No. 1.

cantile houses of London to treat with the government as to the colonization of a number of families ; a measure, which, in consequence of the advantageous terms that were offered, must be productive of great and lasting benefit to the country. After having held a long conversation on this subject, he inquired after Don Augustin de Iturbide. In reply, I stated, that I had left him well and tranquil in London, where he led a retired life. Such were the instructions I had received from the ex-Emperor, who desired to reserve unto himself the pleasure of personally surprising his old friend and acquaintance Garza. The latter, then wished to ascertain if Iturbide would return to Mexico, and if so, when he might be expected. I said, I was ignorant of his plans or intentions ; but that from several conversations I had held with him, I felt almost assured he would revisit his native land. On hearing this, Garza, with great joy, exclaimed ; “ would to heaven he were come ! ” For without him, the nation is lost. He, alone, is capable of insuring her felicity. He then indignantly launched forth, in censuring the errors of government ; bitterly condemned the faults and immorality of the General Congress ; and portrayed in strong and angry terms, the universal disgust and discord that reigned among the States. On a sudden, interrupting his strain of animadversion, he dwelt upon the respect and friendship he entertained for Iturbide ; and how anxiously he longed once more to behold him at the head of a people who sighed for his recal ; adding, that such was the universal wish, even of those who had been adverse to his administration. He assured me, also, that he himself would have written to Iturbide had not the great risk of discovery deterred him ; and he had deferred so doing till the present moment, solely, on that account. All this was spoken with an air and tone of the utmost sincerity and candour. He ended, by observing ; “ when Iturbide established the independence of his country, I was one of his most devoted friends ; but from the hour

that he accepted the crown, and caused several of the provincial deputies to be arrested, I abhorred him. You yourself, knew Sir, that I was one of the first to take up arms against him : but from that moment when he granted me my life, having it in his power to have sacrificed me, I vowed him eternal gratitude. Subsequently, on beholding him abdicate, without any other cause for resigning his diadem, than the noble and patriotic motive of healing the wounds of his distracted country, and feeling well assured that the bent of all his actions tended to insure the happiness of his fellow citizens. my affection for him increased ; and now, so fully am I persuaded of his honour and laudable intentions, that were Providence but to send him back to us, he would find in me a faithful and trusty friend.” After these remarks and professions, we resumed the topic of colonization and trade, at the close of which, he invited me to sup with him, and pass the night at his house. After supper, when we found ourselves alone, he said ; “ You know sir, that I am a man of honour ; speak to me candidly ; has Iturbide sent you ? I replied, that I would answer him frankly, and fearless of the consequences to myself, be they what they might. I told him that I had been the invariable friend of Iturbide’s and should continue to be so to the last hour of my life ; that he had not expressly sent me, but that on my departure from London on the business aforementioned, when I took my leave of him, I offered my services, in case I could be of use to him, and that he charged me to inform myself as to the actual state of Mexico, the condition of the army, and dispositions of his principal friends ; in a word, as to all matters, that might in any way prove interesting to him ; that he had given me to understand, that in the course of four or five months, he purposed proceeding to Mexico, and concluded, by stating, that he reposed the most implicit confidence in General Garza, and counted upon him in particular for the success of his enterprize. To this Garza made answer ; “ most assuredly, he may depend

upon me ; but it were well for Iturbide to come provided with some friends ; for, although I possess large estates, still all I could offer to him would not exceed ten thousand dollars ; however, the high reputation I enjoy in this province, would in the space of fifteen days, place me at the head of two thousand cavalry, and ten pieces of ordinance, all amply provided with munitions of war, and every reliance might be reposed in the troops."

The ensuing day, I informed him, that I was about returning on board, and should revisit him in company with another person, for the purpose of requesting a passport to the capital. At the same time, I inquired if he wished to write to Iturbide, as he had mentioned the preceding day, that he would confide a letter to my care, in order that it might be forwarded with the utmost caution. He sat down and wrote one, and on delivering it to me, enjoined upon me the strictest secrecy and greatest circumspection. (I am sorry I cannot give an exact copy of this letter, not having it in my possession, for reasons which shall hereafter be stated. I can therefore present the reader with its general purport only.) In his letter, Garza expressed in the most glowing language, the satisfaction he experienced on being informed that both their Majesties, (meaning Iturbide and lady, whom he thus denominated,) were in good health ; informed them about sundry persons, and particulars relating to Mexico ; expressed the disgust he felt in common with all the nation at the present state of things ; censured the then existing government, and concluded by stating : " Napoleon flew from Egypt to save France from Anarchy, so should Iturbide, hasten from London to save Mexico, his country, from ruin and devastation." After reading the letter to me, he put it into my hands, and I returned to the vessel on the 14th July ; but not being able to pass the bar that day, did not reach the brig until four o'clock next morning.

When on board, I related to Iturbide all that Garza had said. He heard me with attention, and after having perused his letter, he asked my opinion. I told him, that in so delicate and critical an affair, and under such peculiar circumstances, I would not answer for my own brother. He replied, "Garza is an honest man, he knows my sentiments, he is incapable of committing a base action; his heart would not permit him; we should not always believe the worst of mankind. How is it possible to imagine that he could betray me; he who has received so many favours at my hands; the man whom I pardoned, and who, when I granted him his life under a full consciousness of his having merited death, swore eternal gratitude to his benefactor,!"—No, I cannot suppose it, I will rely with implicit confidence upon Garza's honour and integrity.

At half past five o'clock, the same afternoon of the 15th of July, we left the vessel for *Soto la Marina*, where Iturbide was unknown, and with the intention on his part, to present himself to his friend Garza, in the garb of a peasant, and unarmed. We landed at night-fall, mounted on horseback, and set out on the way to the place of our destination.

About two in the morning, we reached a cluster of huts, called, *Rancho de los Arollos*, almost six leagues distant from the sea. Here we alighted to refresh ourselves, and have our horses fed, to enable them to carry us the remainder of our journey.

Shortly after the ex-emperor had lain down to rest, we heard the clashing of arms and the heavy gallop of horses. Three soldiers soon arrived at the hut where we lodged. They awoke the landlord, demanding of him an instant change of horses as they were posting in great haste to *Soto la Marina*. It was then easy to presume that, some one had recognized Iturbide, and that the commandant of the Bar had despatched those horsemen to watch our motions. So it was in fact; for, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, an officer who had left the Mexican service and had

arrived. I do not now recollect whether from the Havana or from New-Orleans recognized my friend. The latter was not in the least discomposed by this accident, it being his intention to present himself to General Garza, on whom he firmly relied, and of whose probability he entertained not the shadow of a doubt. It was of little importance to him, therefore, whether he were known or not and he consequently resolved to pass the remainder of the night at the hut. Next day he directed me to write to Garza in my own name, and give him an account of what had occurred. When I had finished my letter, I addressed myself to one of the soldiers in order to have it forwarded, but the corporal who commanded them made answer that he could by no means comply with my request, inasmuch as the commandant had despatched him with an escort suspecting that the person who accompanied me was the Ex-emperor Iturbide. But on my observing to him that being unarmed as we were, and having no idea of making any resistance whatever, two would in such case be amply sufficient to guard us, I prevailed upon him to send off one of his men with the letter. At three o'clock in the afternoon the messenger returned bringing an answer from Garza, the substance of which was ;—that the inconvenience to which I had been exposed gave him great pain ;—that he had already issued orders to the three soldiers to withdraw to the Bar, and that it would be extremely agreeable to him to see me and my companion at his house. We were preparing to accept of his hospitality, and on the point of mounting our horses when all of a sudden we saw Garza arrive, escorted by two officers, his chaplain and four soldiers. On my saluting him he returned the compliment, demanding where the Emperor was. I conducted him into the house and witnessed the pleasure and transport he evinced on beholding Iturbide. As soon as the first interchanges of friendly recognition and congratulation were over, he enquired with great apparent anxiety and caution after the letter he had written and begged to



notwithstanding a decree issued by the Sovereign Congress, by which, as Garza tells me, I have been proscribed.” It being now late, we retired to rest. On the morning of the 17th of July, Iturbide dictated to me a representation to the General Congress, informing them of his arrival, and expressing the heart felt pain he suffered in finding, that he had been proscribed by that august body ; (this the reader will find among the accompanying documents, marked No. 4.) and while I was in the act of finishing the representation, document No. 5, (to which I likewise refer the reader,) General Garza’s aid-de-camp entered the room about half-past twelve o’clock, and acquainted us, that in conformity to orders received from his General, he came to inform us, that we must prepare for *death*, as we were to be shot at three o’clock precisely, that afternoon.

On hearing this sentence, the Liberator of Mexico arose from his seat with astonishing composure, and with that calm, heroic dignity, which ever distinguished him, and which constituted the pride and boast of his countrymen, he addressed himself to the aid-de-camp : “ Go Sir,” said he, “ and tell General Garza, that I am ready to die, and only request three days, for I am a man of family, and should like to prepare to leave this world as a Christian ; but I entreat of him to spare my friend so cruel a death, for if it be possible to be so, he is more innocent than I am.”

How could my heart allow me to submit to so great a sacrifice ?—To save my own life !—No !—I panted only for the glory of ending my existence with that of the being whom I loved above all others on earth. I supplicated them not to separate me from my friend ; for they had already given directions to that effect. O God ! what a trying and painful moment must not that have been for the noble minded, the too-confiding Iturbide ! what a dreadful shock to his generous soul to find, that the very individual into whose hands, friendship and the ties of gratitude had induced him blindly to surrender himself, had thus basely deceived him !

What a bitter reflection, to behold treason thus ignominiously unmasked ! The blow must have been keener than that of death itself. Nevertheless the gallant and intrepid hero bore the annunciation of his fate with admirable and unexampled magnanimity. After delivering his reply to the aid-de-camp, he calmly sat down and penned two letters which he privately wrote to console his beloved wife. (The reader will find a copy of one of them among the subjoined documents marked No. 6.)

About half an hour afterwards, this same aid-de-camp again made his appearance, and stated, that General Garza had concluded upon presenting Don Augustine de Iturbide to the Federal State Congress of *Las Tamaulipas*, and that for this purpose, we should be ready to depart at 5 o'clock in the evening for Padilla. We left *Soto la Marina* escorted by an officer and twenty horse, and directed our course towards the seat of government, which is situated in the interior about thirty leagues from *Soto*. Garza followed us at the head of another body of cavalry, composed of 100 men, and accompanied by several subaltern officers belonging to the Militia. At nine we halted. Garza posted his escort to the left and ours to the right of the highway, and thus stationed, both detachments bivouacked for the night in the open fields. He gave directions for our supper, but did not show himself. While on the march, the two gentlemen interchanged only a few common-place remarks, without referring in the least to the matter in question. On the 18th July at 2 o'clock, in the morning we continued our rout, and at 3 heard mass, (it being Sunday,) in the chapel of a farm ; this done, we pursued our way, and at 8, after sun-rise, alighted on a rising ground, to allow the cattle to graze ; Garza's corps being separated from us by about two hundred paces. We had scarcely taken up our respective positions, when Garza's aid-de-camp presented himself and ordered our escort to file off and join the other body. This they

did, leaving us under the *surveillance* of only a single sentinel. Shortly after our detachment had gone off, we heard a simultaneous shout and loud acclamations proceed from that quarter where the troops were drawn up. We were still imagining that those outcries might be harbingers of our approaching doom, when the aid-de-camp came up full speed to the place where Iturbide was standing, and politely requested him to come, and speak to the soldiery. We found them formed in a circle, Garza standing in the centre, and with tears in his eyes, just in the act of throwing away his sword, which having done, he addressed them in the following terms : " The hero of Iguala, who freed us from the Spanish yoke, is alone worthy of governing the Mexican Nation: he *alone*, can insure her happiness. I submit to his orders, and in so doing, surrender to him the command of this Province, as well as of these brave troops, who are resolved to protect him, and to defend the institutions of their country ; but upon the express condition that Don Augustin de Iturbide shall never overstep the bounds of the supreme military and civil jurisdiction, for we will have no crowned head, and particularly as we are fully assured that the Liberator of Anahuac has returned, not as Emperor, but as a soldier, warm in the cause of his native land." Garza, then turning to the officers and soldiers, asked them if they coincided with him ; to which, they all jointly responded by the most enthusiastic manifestations of the joy and satisfaction, which they experienced in once more beholding their beloved chief. On which Iturbide accepted the command ; thanked them for the confidence they reposed in him ; and taking from his purse four doubloons (which he had destined the preceding day for the four soldiers who were to have shot him, he enquired who these soldiers were ! On Garza's replying that they had not then been selected, he handed them to the aid-de-camp to be distributed among the troops.

Garza took infinite pains to persuade Iturbide, that a sentence of death which had been passed upon him

at *Soto la Marina*, was solely decreed in order to probe and ascertain the minds of the military ; and no sooner had he discovered that they evinced sorrow and disapprobation, than he became satisfied they might be relied upon for the present undertaking.

We sat down to breakfast with Garza and his officers, all of whom seemed highly pleased with the morning's occurrence. After a hasty meal, we arose from table, and Iturbide being desirous to acquaint his family, with the happy turn his affairs had taken, wrote another letter to them which was forwarded by an officer, who delivered it to his lady. How agreeable must the receipt of this epistle have been to a fond wife who had but lately received the distressing communication of his then approaching death.

Iturbide felt very anxious not to give the least umbrage to the authorities at Padilla, being at the head of the forces, and wished to enter into friendly relations with the Congress there assembled. While still on our way thither, Garza suddenly came to take leave, and presented my friend with his purse, containing fifteen doubloons, intreating him to accept it for the moment, as it might prove of some service to him in case he should have occasion for money. Iturbide took it, and on his delivering it to me, Garza bid us farewell, adding, that he was about proceeding to *Soto la Marina*, to arrange the plan of operations, collect forces, arms, &c. &c. and particularly to receive his family, who must by that time have landed.

At two in the afternoon, we reached the village of *Santillana*, and the troops having rested, we left it at 5 o'clock the same afternoon. This was on the 18th of July. That night we took up a new encampment, and at 3 in the morning pursued our march to Padilla. Two officers were sent forward by Iturbide to notify the Congress of his approach. They soon returned, stating, that the President of the Legislature had directed them to request Iturbide, to await him on the bank of a small river, distant about three or four hun-

dred paces from the town, in order that he might have time to assemble the members and deliberate on the matters in question. When Iturbide found at six in the morning of the 19th that he had reached the banks of the river above mentioned, he, in conformity with the desire of the president, halted his forces, and calmly awaited the determination of Congress, in order to show his respect for the laws of the nation and the mandates of its authorities; and although the troops entreated him to pass the stream and proceed to the city, he promptly and resolutely declined according to their wishes. But it being now near 8 o'clock, and having received no communication, he again dispatched an officer to that body to inform them, that he desired to hold a conference with them on subjects of great moment, and to request that an interview might take place within an hour.

Shortly after the departure of the officer, a soldier appeared with a message from Garza, intreating Iturbide to abide his coming, that they might both enter Padilla together, and that he would soon join him. At the expiration of half an hour, Garza came and told Iturbide that after due reflection and considering existing circumstances, he thought that it would appear more conformable thereto, were Iturbide to march into the town as one under arrest. He consequently entered Padilla in this character, where he was lodged in a house, which had been selected for his residence. A guard consisting of an officer and twenty men were ordered to attend upon us, but they had now no longer the appearance of a guard of honour. Considering ourselves once more in the light of prisoners, we concluded the Representation which we had commenced at *Soto la Marina*, a copy of which will be found among the subjoined documents, marked No. 7. General Garza sent us dinner, but did not appear himself. We had just risen from table, when his servant came in to request the return of the money, which he had lent Iturbide shortly after he surrendered the command to

him !!! I desire no longer to dwell upon the conduct of Garza. The world will be surprised at such an act of infamy, and will amply judge him by the true and faithful exposition, which I have given of his behaviour.

Iturbide wrote the representation, contained in document No. 8, to the State Congress, entreating permission to address them personally, but received no reply. At 4 o'clock of the same day, the same aid-de-camp arrived bringing the sentence of death, with orders to see it put in execution at 6, precisely. My brave friend evinced on this occasion the same serenity of mind which he had manifested when previously sentenced to be shot, and asked a delay of only three days to prepare himself: a space of time which is always conceded in every christian country to the basest malefactor; but even this brief interval was denied him !!!

As they were about to conduct me under guard to another dwelling, I tore myself from his embrace, and in this moment of agony, pressed him for the last time in my arms. They were forcing me away, grief choaked my utterance, and I had only strength to bid him an eternal farewell. The sole consolation that now remained for me on earth was the satisfaction of quitting this life with him. His last words to me on my leaving the room were, "Beneski, make your peace with the Almighty!" These sounds are continually in my ears, and will ever remain engraven on my heart..

.....

The president of the Congress of Las Tamaulipas, being an ecclesiastic, kindly attended in person, and religiously assisted Iturbide in his solemn preparations for death. I begged the like favour of Garza when he came to visit me in prison; but he informed me, that I was not to die, inasmuch as Congress had no authority to pass such sentence upon me. To this I made answer, that I was likewise comprehended in the same decree, and that if Congress had no such power over me, they had still less power to condemn my friend. Up to this moment, I had felt some alleviation to my

grief in the hope which I cherished of being allowed to share the fate of my commander. But on hearing the determination of Congress, the distress of mind I suffered in the idea of surviving my friend and benefactor became insupportable and entirely overcame me. I petitioned Congress to pass sentence also on me, I supplicated Garza to this effect : and at length he promised to interest himself to obtain the realization of my wishes. But far from complying with his promise, or even endeavouring to procure for me the boon which I craved, he on the contrary, gave orders for removing me from the prison in which I was confined, and caused me to be forcibly dragged from thence, half frantic as I was through excess of mental dejection. They locked me up in another uninhabited dwelling, and even bolted all the doors and windows, placed a guard at the entrance of my room, and left me under the immediate observance of two sentinels.

As soon as Iturbide had performed his last christial duties, he was led forth at about six, or near sun-down, to the public square, the place appointed for his execution. The heat of the country, which was excessive, forced him to ask for a glass of water, which on being handed to him he drank off; then turning to the authorities he requested leave to address the troops drawn up before him ; and having received permission to that effect, he spoke to them in the following terms, which were the last words he uttered : “Mexicans ! in this last moment of my life, I recommend to you the love of your country and the due observance of our holy religion ; it is religion which will lead you to glory. I die for having flown to your assistance, and die happy in expiring among you. I leave this world with honour, and not as a *traitor*—this foul stigma shall not attach itself to the fair fame of my descendants. No,—it shall never be said that I was a traitor ! Preserve strict subordination and be obedient to your commanders. By acting in conformity to their mandates, you will obey those of your Creator. I do

not address you from any motives of vanity, for I am far from harbouring them." And after having offered up a fervent prayer, he said, "From the bottom of my heart I forgive all my enemies—really from my heart."

The officer who superintended the execution, now approached in order to put a bandage upon his eyes: this Iturbide declined, saying it was unnecessary: but on the officer's replying that such was the form to be observed, the Ex-emperor drew forth his handkerchief and bound it on *with his own hands*: this done he knelt down, and having received two balls in his forehead, and two in his breast, fell dead. They instantly removed the corpse and deposited it in a chapel for the purpose of interring it the ensuing day. It was then buried with all the propriety and solemnity which could have been expected in a small in-land country town; the Legislature and all the public authorities followed his remains to the grave and assisted in consigning the *Liberator of Mexico* to his last abode.

Such was the end of the hero of *Iguala*! his love for his country, and the noble impulse of his generous soul proved his ruin. That he died with honour, and that his memory will ever be dear to the Mexican nation is now the only consolation which remains to his family and his friends!!

The state Congress of *Las Tamaulipas*, one of the sovereignties of the Mexican Federation, doomed her Liberator to an ignominious death, without a hearing, without a trial, without a legal condemnation, and without even once considering that Iturbide could not have received intelligence of the decree of proscription; inasmuch as he sailed from England on the 11th May, 1824, and the act of outlawry was passed only on the 28th day of the preceding month. That body should have taken into consideration *that the penalties of a law should never be inflicted or enforced when the very existence of such law is unknown to the accused!*

On the 28th of July I returned with General Garza, to *Sato la Marina*, there to remain under arrest until the government of Mexico should decide as to my fate. It was afterwards decreed that legal proceedings should be instituted against me, and that a council of war should try me under the same act of proscription by which Iturbide had been condemned, in which I was comprehended, and ought consequently, to have suffered death, having aided and abetted his return to Mexico. But the council of war, after taking cognizance and deliberating on my case with sounder discrimination and more impartial justice than the Congress of *Padilla* had exercised in that of my departed friend, considering that I could not have had the smallest notice of the promulgation of the decree in question for the reason above mentioned, sentenced me to perpetual banishment from the Mexican territory: provided said sentence should meet the approbation of the general government. The latter acknowledging the uprightness of their decision, not only approved of the sentence, but moreover left me entirely at liberty to appeal from or to abide by it; and in case of acquiescence, that I might proceed to the United States. In conformity thereto, I left the country, having previously furnished myself with a certificate from Gen. Garza, to serve as a documentary attestation of the line of conduct I had pursued, and the manner in which I had conducted myself throughout the whole affair. (See Document, No. 9.)

The government, taking into consideration the services which their deceased Liberator had rendered to his country, and deeming it an act of justice, humanely and generously settled an annual pension of \$8,000 upon his widow and children. To preserve the public tranquillity, and having reason to dread commotions in their favour, owing to the strong attachment of the Mexican people to their departed benefactor, the executive power considered their temporary exile to be a measure which prudence dictated.

To me it would prove a source of the highest gratification, were the Mexican government but willing to be persuaded, that I am an ardent lover of its liberal institutions ; that I am so, from a thorough conviction that they are alone calculated to ensure the happiness of a people, and that it is the sacred duty of every man to protect and maintain them, it being far preferable to die free, than to live in bondage. Despotical governments constitute my greatest detestation ; and I solemnly declare before that God who searcheth the hearts of all mankind that I never would have accompanied the Ex-emperor of Mexico, had I known him to be a despot, or an enemy to liberty.

CHARLES DE BENESKI.

New-York, 14th Novrs. }
1824. }

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.



DOCUMENT, NO. 1.

**REPRESENTATIONS, ADDRESSED TO THE SUPREME
GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE NATION.**

FIRST.

Love of country animated the war-cry of Iguala, it was this that enabled me to overcome the greatest obstacles, and it still burns in my bosom with undiminished ardour :—neither the terms in which the decree of the 8th April 1823 was couched, nor the imputations levelled by a few authorities and an incorporated body against my reputation, and which proved to be as harmless as they were false, have been sufficient to extinguish it :—I have looked upon the whole as the result of the errors and passions of individuals ; as it regards the Mexican nation, I can entertain nothing but sentiments of acknowledgment and eternal gratitude.

As soon, therefore, as the designs of the European powers against the Americas were clearly developed, and which I had long foreseen, I resolved to remove to a spot where I might be prepared at a moment to fly to the assistance of the Mexicans, if they required my aid, and thereby frustrate the measures which I presumed had been adopted to prevent my doing so by several ministers at the court of Tuscany, my suspicions have been fully confirmed by public acts which I presume are in the possession of your sovereign body.

To the representatives of this great nation it belongs to calculate and to determine, whether my services as a mere soldier, through the favourable opinion I may still possess, can serve in any manner to re-unite the sentiments of the people, and to contribute by this and by my sword to secure the independence and freedom of the country; to myself it only belongs to manifest the desire I entertain to serve my country, and with profound respect to offer to her acceptance arms, munitions of war, clothing, and money; and *solemnly to protest*, that as soon as I shall behold the liberty of Mexico secured, with only one sentiment and one interest prevailing among the inhabitants, with no powerful enemies to combat, I shall desire nothing more than to offer my congratulations on so propitious an event, and to carry with me in my retirement the purest and sincerest sentiments of joy for her prosperity. Let not either my wishes or my language be misunderstood—The real happiness of my country is all that I seek, and for this do I offer to the Almighty my most fervant prayers.

London, February 13th, 1824.

SIGNED, AUGUSTIN DE ITURBIDE.

To the Sovereign Constitutional Congress }
of the Mexican nation. }

SECOND.

Under date of the 13th February, I addressed to your honorable body the representation of which I now forward the sextuplicate : the duplicate and triplicate whereof I transmitted through the hands of Don Francisco de Borja Migoni, agent for the Mexican government in London, and who assured me that he had expedited the same through the care of Don Lucas Alaman; but having reason to fear on the one hand that they might not arrive in season, and finding on the other the circumstances which induced me again to offer my services to my country becoming more urgent, while each day increased and strengthened the obstacles to their efficiency, I determined upon sailing from England in May, leaving all my children there except the two younger. In that representation I hinted at the designs of several of the ministers at the court of Florence to intercept me in the route ; I have now to add that the holy alliance endeavoured to prevent my family from leaving Leghorn in order to join me ; and the consuls of France, Sardinia, Rome, &c. acting in pursuance to instructions received to this effect from their ministers, who are all implicated in the affair, refused to inspect their passports ; by an extraordinary exertion, I surmounted this difficulty, as also various other embarrassments which were created by the Duke of San Carlos, minister plenipotentiary of Spain at the court of Versailles.

These public occurrences, and other weighty reasons, not necessary to be here stated, satisfied me that the difficulties I should have to encounter, would in a

short time become wholly insurmountable. The great anxiety evinced by the combined cabinets to prevent my return to my native land, gave a new impulse to exertions, as it confirmed me in the belief of my being able to render effectual service to my country in opposing their intrigues.

Having heretofore withdrawn from my country, with my wife and children, under circumstances too well known to require to be here repeated, separating myself in so doing from a beloved and venerated father, sister, relations and friends, in order to prevent the smallest effusion of blood, and that my presence should not be considered as any obstacle to the choice by the people of such government as they might think best—how could I be indifferent to the imminent dangers which threatened her, or wish that my aid should perhaps become useless by delay? I should be unworthy the name of a Mexican, and an unpardonable criminal in my own eyes, if dangers, difficulties or personal considerations of any kind, should have caused me to act with hesitation, when promptness and activity were most required. I considered it my duty to disregard all difficulties and personal considerations—was it necessary to abandon my beloved children, to sell the jewels of my wife, and even to divest myself of my own little personal ornaments in order to meet the expenses of my voyage, so as to avoid compromising the credit of my country, or of imposing upon her any particular obligation? All this was done. Was it necessary for me to traverse mountains covered with snow, to expose myself to the dangers of the sea in the most inclement season, in a small and ill-conditioned bark, in order to arrive at London? I did so cheerfully. Was it necessary for me to forsake the enjoyments of private and retired life and again to hazard my existence? Even at this I did not hesitate. Was it necessary for me to overcome the hesitation excited in my own mind by a regard to my character, lest my conduct in this new enterprize should be charged against me as a mere

attempt to effect my own personal aggrandizement ? Here also was I victorious. Animated as I was by the most sincere and devoted love of my country, I accounted no sacrifices too great for me to sustain, which might be productive of good to her.

I am in the territory of Mexico, and hope that the present Congress, being its own master, free from party spirit, and exclusively occupied with the welfare of the nation, will not suffer it to be plunged into that abyss of evils wherein it was so near being overwhelmed by a former faction. I do not speak with any feelings of resentment, for these my heart disavows ; the freedom of my language is the result of the sincerest principles of patriotism and honour ; let me explain myself.

In forming the plan of Iguala, the object I had in view was *to liberate my country from the dominion of Spain*—to place her in such a situation as would enable her to adopt that constitution which she might judge most expedient—to preserve her excellent customs, and in the midst of revolution to avoid the effusion of blood ;—the result is well known, and there is no person who will dare to deny that the ends I had in view were holy, just, and tended to the production of prosperity and national felicity. It is true that it was accompanied by some evils, and the country is even now in danger of being again made subject to the same ignominious chains from which it has been liberated—but not from any defect in that plan, or from any fault of its author. If the first Congress had acted with good faith, with wisdom and discretion, the nation might have established its liberty and modelled its constitution under more favourable circumstances, according to its own will ; it might have possessed unanimity, an army, a system of finance of which it is now destitute, and Spain with all the aid derived from foreign powers would not even have dared to undertake the re-conquest of Mexico—an event, which she now considers perfectly certain.

It the years 21 and 22, the sentiments and opinions of Ferdinand VII. and of the Spanish nation, were as evident, and the interest which the allied powers felt in his cause, as well known, as they are now ; and, I had no doubt but they would resort to every possible means of re-effecting our subjugation. In the archives of those courts, and in those of the secretaries of state will be found multiplied proofs of my having foreseen the evil, and of my extreme anxiety to avert it, while the faction which controlled that Congress, from its very commencement, rendered all my efforts fruitless and unavailing.—The objects of this faction were to prevent the establishment of a constitution, of an army, of a system of financial operations, and by distracting public opinion, *to pave the way for the re-conquest of the country.*

The Bourbons were under the necessity of adopting a pretext by which to cover their real intentions, and by taking advantage of the rivalry which existed among some of my countrymen and of the inexperience of many, persuaded them to believe that the measures which I so anxiously pursued tended solely to my own personal aggrandizement ; and afterwards, when I was proclaimed Emperor, without either an army or a treasury to support me, they changed their ground and endeavoured to convince the people that my designs were no less than to possess myself of absolute and despotic power ; but their intention was still the same. I would fain omit reviving the recollection of these circumstances, but the welfare of the nation imperiously demands this of me : *the same faction yet exists*, and the circumstances of the country afford still stronger grounds for apprehension ; they will pretend and strive to persuade you to believe that I am influenced by motives of ambition, and not by those of attachment to my country : they will endeavour to convince you that there exists no foreign danger, that all that is said of an intention on the part of Ferdinand VII. and his allies, to subject the Americas to the domination of their

former masters, are so many false and designing inventions ;—they will resort to every imaginable device to blind and mislead the nation and effect my destruction. Such has been and such will continue to be their conduct, in conformity to the instructions of the court of Madrid, ever since the year twenty-one ; regarding me as the greatest obstacle to the execution of their plans ; they say, that if they can only succeed in putting me out of the way, it will be easy to introduce that spirit of division which will render your re-subjugation sure.

Fortunately, there are in the sovereign congress many persons who are not only possessed of talents and science, but of patriotism also, who are well acquainted with the intrigues of the old cabinets ;—and fortunately also, my actions have furnished the most solid and convincing proofs, that I loved my country more than I did my own person, and that as it regarded myself, I sought no other gratification than that of rendering this country independent ; to prove that this was the only motive of my actions, what is it to which I now aspire ?—Surely to contribute to its defence, and to use the influence which circumstances may give me to assist in re-uniting the interests and the opinions of the people, that they may by these means attain to that degree of power which nature places within their reach, and to that station of respectability and greatness to which Providence has called them.

I cannot doubt that your supreme body have taken advantage of all favourable opportunities of ascertaining with certainty the views of the Holy Alliance, as you could not otherwise know the enemies with whom you have to contend, nor upon the forces necessary to oppose them ; I do not therefore undertake to give you any information on this point. In transmitting to you a printed statement dated at London, the third of May last, containing the speech of the King of France on the opening of the Chambers, and an article taken from the Morning Chronicle dated twenty-third of April, my sole object is to direct your particular attention to

various matters embraced in this latter production—and which under present circumstances are of great importance. Mexico contains within her own bosom cunning and malignant vipers which are preying upon her vitals; but happily she also possesses faithful and devoted children who well know how to expose the machinations and to destroy the projects of her enemies, by opposing a firm and faithful bosom for her safety; among whom my desire is to be found the foremost.

On board the brig Spring, 8th, of July, 1824.

SIGNED, **AUGUSTIN DE ITURBIDE.**

To the Supreme Constitutional Congress }
of Mexico. }



DOCUMENT, No. 3.

MEXICANS,

After tendering to you on my return to my native country, the assurances of my unabated affection and attachment, my first duty is to make you acquainted with the motives of my departure from Italy, and in what manner, and for what object I have returned: I trust, that you will listen kindly to my words, and give them that consideration and assent which he who has ever been a strict observer of truth has a right to anticipate. Experience has proved to you by a series of events as glorious as they were beneficial, that all my public acts of any importance were the result of deep reflection, and predicated upon a regard to the true and solid happiness of the country, and guided by the strictest rules of prudence and justice.

I should do you great injustice were I to undertake to convince you, that Spain is under the protection of the Holy Alliance, and that she has not submitted and will not submit to endure the loss of the most precious jewel that adorned her crown—it is impossible, however, for you to be fully acquainted with the innumerable springs which have been set in motion both abroad and among yourselves to re-effect your subjugation. My visit to Europe having afforded me an opportunity of possessing myself of the most minute information in this respect, I became satisfied of the impending ruin which is preparing for you, and which I could not stand by and look upon with indifference. These are the motives which have induced me to abandon those remote regions, and overcoming the obstacles and eluding the intrigues by which they attempted to prevent my return to resume my place among you, my countrymen.

I come not as Emperor, but only as a soldier and a Mexican: influenced by the strongest sentiments of my heart, and by the purest love of my country. I come as the first in interest in the establishment of our beloved independence, and that liberty, which is our birthright. I come deeply sensible of the grateful sentiments which I ought to cherish on account of the affectionate regard which has ever been manifested towards me by the nation in general, and without any recollection of the atrocious calumnies by which my own personal enemies and the enemies of my country have sought to destroy my reputation.

My sole object is to contribute both by my voice and by my sword to support the liberty and independence of Mexico: and I do so, with a full determination not to survive the re-imposition of those dreadful chains which powerful nations, aided by some of her unnatural sons, and several ungrateful Spaniards are endeavouring to impose upon her. My desire is also to act if possible, as a mediator in your own internal dissensions, which are of themselves sufficient to destroy

you : to re-establish the inestimable blessings of peace ; to support that form of government only, which shall be most conformable to the national will, and to unite most cordially with you in effecting the prosperity of our common country.

MEXICANS, you shall shortly be addressed again by your most sincere and affectionate friend,

AUGUSTIN DE ITURBIDE.

On board the brig Spring, 8th June 1824.



DOCUMENT, NO. 4.

The Supreme Executive Power has addressed to me the following decree :

The Supreme Executive Power, provisionally appointed by the Sovereign Mexican Congress, to all to whom these presents may come and concern, make known, that the General Constituent Sovereign Congress have decreed as follows :

ART. 1. Should Don Augustine de Iturbide, at any time, or under any title whatever present himself within this territory, he shall be declared a traitor and an outlaw : in which case, the very act itself shall be sufficient to adjudge him a public enemy to the state.

ART. 2. All such persons as may co-operate by encomiastic writings, or in any way whatsoever, to favour his return to the Mexican Republic, are hereby declared traitors to the Federative Government, and shall be tried in conformity to the law of the 27th September, 1823.

ART. 3. The preceding article likewise includes all those who may in any manner forward the views of any foreign invader whomsoever, and such persons shall be judged in conformity with the provisions of the said law.

The Supreme Executive Power after notification of the preceding decree, is charged with the fulfilment, printing, publication, and circulation thereof.

Mexico, 28th April, 1824.

SIGNED, JOSE MARIA CABREZA.

FRANCISCO ELORRIAGA,

Deputy Secretary.

JOSE MARIA XIMENEZ,

Deputy Secretary.

Wherefore we command all tribunals, justices of the peace, chiefs, governors and all other authorities, whether civil, military, or ecclesiastical, of whatever rank or character they may be, to observe and cause to be observed, fulfil, and execute the present decree in all its points. And for the fulfilment thereof, the same is ordered to be printed, published, and circulated.

MEXICO, April 28, 1824.

NICHOLAS BRAVO, PRESIDENT.

MIGUEL DOMINGUEZ.

Addressed to Daniel Pablo de la Slave,
for his notification and fulfilment thereof.

DOCUMENT, No. 5.

**REPRESENTATION ADDRESSED TO THE
SUPREME GENERAL CONGRESS
FROM SOTO LA MARINA.**

It is with amazement I have learned that your sovereign body have proscribed me, declared me an outlaw, and published a decree to that effect. A resolution like this, dictated by the most respectable authority of the nation, whose character ought to be marked by the strictest regard to justice and prudence, has led me to a careful examination of my conduct, in order that I might, if possible, discover the atrocious crime of which I may have been guilty, that could justify so cruel a measure on the part of the representatives of a nation which has such just cause to pride itself for its unbounded clemency and lenity.

I enquired within myself, whether my crime consisted in having formed the plan of Iguala, and in having raised an army by whose victories the nation was elevated from a state of slavery to that of sovereignty ; whether it consisted in having established the constitutional system in Mexico, and in assembling a Congress to enact such laws as might be most congenial to her will and welfare ; whether it consisted in having twice defeated the plans which were formed as early as the year 1821, to have me proclaimed monarch ; or, per-

chance, in having accepted the crown when no longer able to refuse it, having made this great sacrifice in order to liberate my country, which in truth was thereby preserved from anarchy ; whether it consisted in having refused to grant employment to my nearest relatives, thereby declining to augment their wealth ; whether it consisted in having preserved the National Representation by means of the Instituent Assembly, or in dissolving a Congress which during nine months enacted nothing in relation to the constitution, the army, or the finances, and all of whose acts tended either directly or indirectly to precipitate us into a state of anarchy and of subjection to the Spanish yoke ; whether it consisted in having overruled the measures of this Legislature which at the very moment of its organization had sworn to maintain the three powers of the nation separate, and yet wholly annulled them, thereby infringing the limits of the authority vested in them, acting in violation of their most solemn oaths and rendering themselves wholly unworthy of the public confidence, as was manifested by the whole nation, when after my departure, it deprived them of all the powers with which they had been originally invested ; or, in having again convened this very Congress in order once more to extirpate anarchy out of the country, leaving at my departure a central point of union, although well assured that this assembly would do every thing in its power to injure me ; as there reigned in it, I grieve to say it, party spirit, immorality and meanness ; whether it consisted in having resigned a sceptre, which I had been constrained to assume and could well have maintained, when it was intimated to me by two or three provincial deputies and a small portion of the soldiery that the nation desired a new government ; or, in having blindly confided in those who had already betrayed me while supreme magistrate of the nation, and in having risked my life in the hands of those who by every means, not excepting the basest and most infamous had essayed to destroy me, as every thing appeared

to me to be preferable to the shedding of one drop of American blood in my defence ; or, whether it might not have consisted in the sacrifices which I made for my family and friends, whereby I avoided those intestine broils that would have given such immense advantages to the Bourbon faction, which then, as well as now, strove to divide us, that it might load the Americans with the chains of slavery ; whether it consisted in my having abandoned my honoured, venerable and virtuous father in want, and setting out myself in the same destitute condition, with a wife and eight children on a journey of nearly two thousand leagues from my native land ; or, when having the National funds at my disposal, I did not appropriate to myself that portion which she herself had granted me, preferring on the contrary, in consideration of the impoverished state of the public treasury, and notwithstanding my own personal necessities, that the public monies should be distributed to supply the wants and discharge the salaries of those very men who pretended to believe me abounding in riches, a fact which they unblushingly asserted in the face of the Nation, and which sooner or later had to acknowledge the truth : was it, that in defiance of every risk, I defeated all the schemes of the Holy Alliance, in order to place myself in a situation from whence I might fly to the assistance of my native land, as soon as those powers should commence hostilities against her ? or, was it in having represented to this same Congress the desires which were nearest to my heart, omitting to write to my relatives and friends one single word that might give them the slightest expectation of my return to Mexico, in order to avoid by such communication the remotest cause of internal dissensions ; or, is it in having frankly avowed to your Sovereign Congress my most ardent wishes for the welfare of my country, and that I considered myself to have been in no wise injured by her ? or, is it, that I offered to bring with me arms, money and every thing necessary to supply her wants, and in

declaring my willingness to contribute to the support of such form of government as the people might see fit to adopt?——I find it impossible to discover, even after so scrupulous an examination, what may or can be the crimes for which your Sovereign Congress have condemned me. I desire, therefore, to be informed of them, that I may dispel the error; being convinced, that my views are most upright, and that the warmest wishes of my heart are for the welfare of my country; that as to her, I have no other love than the love of glory, and feel myself perfectly disinterested in relation to all other material concerns.

Civilized nations, the world at large, and future generations in particular, will be astonished at the promulgation of the decree of which I speak; and I entreat your Sovereign Congress, that for your own honour, and, more especially, for that of the great nation, which you represent, that you will be pleased to read and take into your most deliberate consideration the representation which I forwarded to you from London, under date of 13th February, as also, that of the 14th inst, in order that your deliberations may be conducted with all that prudence and discretion which circumstances require; and I entreat of all, and of each one of the deputies, that they will examine well their own hearts, and consider this subject impartially: that each among them will deliberate, as though he were the only judge, the sole governor, with relation to the circumstances of my conduct; not allowing themselves to be influenced by the suggestions of those pusillanimous and corrupt minds, which always presume the worst of others, and are even terrified at their own shadows. I would also intreat your Sovereign Congress, to consider, how essentially I may promote the welfare of the country, by contributing to allay the dissensions and to unite the public mind, which alone can save us from the imminent dangers that threaten us. It cannot be questioned, that with but very little exertion, France introduced 140,000 men into Spain,

and expended immense treasures, for the sole purpose of putting down the Constitutional system. What will not the same nation do in conjunction with the powers of the Holy Alliance, to subjugate the new republics, and to reduce us to the state of colonies under our former masters, in order to preserve that legitimacy in which the reigning dynasties are so deeply interested? Your Sovereign Congress will please to remember, that the presumptuous and improvident Cortes of Spain neglected those measures which should have been adopted within themselves, and imprudently relying upon foreign assistance, were disappointed. The result is known; and a similar fate will attend Mexico herself, should those who are bound to save her, pursue a similar course. Finally, I entreat your Sovereign Congress, that you will consider me, not as the enemy, but as the most ardent well-wisher of my country; and that I long to evince the fidelity of my attachment to her welfare, by promoting that most important of all considerations, *unity of sentiment among the people*, whose attachment to my person, is, I am well assured, in the ratio of 97 to 3. It was under the influence of all these considerations, that I came, promptly and openly, without hostile preparations, fully determined, to govern myself throughout by the strictest principles of rectitude. And if, indeed, my blood be required to invigorate the growth of the tree of liberty and peace, how gladly, how gloriously would I not offer myself up a victim on the scaffold! I would do so, as freely, as I would shed my blood upon the field of honour, mixing, but not confounding it with that of the enemies of the nation. The ruin of my country and my own dishonour are two events which I have sworn not to survive.

DOCUMENT, No. 6.

Soto la Marina, 17th July, 1824.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Please peruse the subjoined letter and deliver it to my wife, after duly preparing her for the contents thereof, that she may not undergo a shock which might prove prejudicial to her health, and endanger the existence of the innocent being with which she is pregnant. I may be excused from dwelling upon useless circumstances when the result is known.

Under the idea of its being one day of service to my family, I transmit to you the rough draft of a third representation to Congress, in the state in which it was when they announced my condemnation, and at a period when such an event, was by no means, at hand, as General Garza can certify. You may make such use of it as you may deem most proper.

I feel no inclination to write more, and must, moreover, hold myself in readiness to mount on horseback whenever they may choose so to command me. You are my friend, and are acquainted with my sentiments in relation to my family, and the arrangements of my household. I cannot address my father, nor do I consider it requisite. Should I be able to finish the third representation and remit it to you, your faithful and loving friend will do so.

ITURBIDE.

Entreat of my father Trevino, to consider this as to him ; remember me to Morandini ; I recommend him and the printer to you, and also once more poor Josephine. General Garza has promised me that you shall all be taken care of by his family.

They inform me, that we are about to start for Padilla, therefore, cannot write to Joseph, whom I likewise request to consider this as to him, and to accept the love of an uncle, who desired his welfare, but perhaps did him an injury. I have already spoken to you about him, his father and sisters.

ITURBIDE.



DOCUMENT, NO. 7.

CONTINUATION OF REPRESENTATION No. 5

At this stage of my representation, Adjutant Gordiano Castillo presented himself before me, and when I least expected it, announced to me in the name of Citizen General Felipe de la Garza, the sentence of death, and that it was to be carried into execution at 3 o'clock that afternoon. It was then a quarter past 12. Almighty God! How can I describe the feelings which pressed upon my soul! I beheld my country about to be destroyed by intestine divisions, a prey to her irreconcilable enemy, the Spanish government: American hands had sealed my sentence and I beheld American hands about to carry it into execution: a charge had been preferred against me of which I neither had, nor could I have had any notice, for the decree was passed the 28th April, and my departure from London took place on the 4th, and from the Isle of Wight

on the 11th of the ensuing month of May, and I did not touch at any port whatever, until I arrived at the *Bar of Soto la Marina* ; I beheld this sentence about to be carried into execution, without having ever been heard in my defence, and what is worse, without being allowed the time necessary to prepare myself to die as a Christian, leaving six tender children in a foreign country, and two others, one of four years, and the other of seventeen months old, confined on board of a brig, together with their wretched mother again far advanced in a state of pregnancy ; I beheld—but why waste time in these tender recollections : I proceed with the material parts of my statement : as to the loss of a life which I had so often risked for my country, and so often exposed for the safety of my countrymen, I did not even request its preservation ; I only asked the allowance of three short days, within which I might endeavour to make my peace with my God : my conscience, unhappily for me, not being so clear in my private as it was in my public life ; that I might be permitted to address a few lines of instruction to my wife and my children, and that they would spare my dear friend, Charles de Beneski, so cruel a fate, he being, if possible, more innocent than myself, and who through friendship alone, secure of the rectitude of my intentions, returned to serve that same nation which now condemns him. The General (Garza) being unable to doubt of the justice of my representations, that I had presented myself to him in good faith, without a man, musket, or the smallest indication of hostility, in a province where I possessed the fewest friends, and fully resolved to obey the resolutions of the Sovereign General Congress, whether these might be to accept my services, or that in case of refusal I would depart from the Mexican territories for ever, suspended the execution of the sentence and started the same evening of the 17th for the honourable Congress of Las Tamaulipas, to deliver me over to that body.

AUGUSTIN DE ITURBIDE.

DOCUMENT, No. 8.

I request, gentlemen, that you will be pleased to beseech the honourable Congress in my name, to deign to hear me previous to terminating the matter with which they are now engaged in relation to me. It is not so much the lives of two men, be they of what class they may, they are nevertheless of the utmost value ; but it is the great interest of the nation which I would submit to the consideration of the Congress : if what they may hear from me should prove to be unimportant, or only considered so by them, nothing would be lost on their part, and its worthy members will have given a proof of their justice, humanity and discretion ; and if on the other hand they should turn a deaf ear to my just demand, how great will be the prejudices that will be excited against them in the country, and what bitter pangs of remorse will they not create in their own bosoms ? The papers which I gave to General Garza are incomplete, and were, moreover, written in haste, and under very critical circumstances, by a man fluctuating between a thousand tender and interesting objects ; I trust, therefore, the honourable Congress cannot slightly pass its judgment and resolution on so serious an affair upon documents so exceedingly informal.

God preserve you gentlemen, many years.

Padilla, 19th July, 1824, At Noon.

AUGUSTIN DE ITURBIDE.

To the Secretaries of the Honourable
Congress of Las Tamaulipas.

DOCUMENT, No. 9.

Felipe de la Garza, Brigadier General in the Mexican Army, and present Commandant General of the State of Tamaulipas, &c.

I certify, upon my word of honour, that Colonel Charles Beneski, a native of Poland, accompanied the late Don Augustin de Iturbide, from his disembarkation to his death, on which occasion he gave the most sincere proofs of fidelity and attachment to his person, by desiring to be shot with him ; that to this effect, he formally petitioned me as Commandant General, and even the Supreme State Congress : and that on the denial of his request, he became so outrageous as to render it necessary to have him confined to a room : that after the execution of Iturbide, Beneski remained more than four days without taking the smallest nourishment : exhibiting the liveliest demonstrations of his grief and his attachment to his friend ; and, moreover, that during the pendency of his trial, from the result of which he suffered three months imprisonment, and was sentenced to perpetual banishment from the Mexican territory ; he constantly manifested the utmost regard for the reputation of the deceased Iturbide.

In testimony, whereof, and in order that he may make such use of these presents, as he may deem most fit ; the same are given at his request, and under my hand at Soto la Marina, this 21st day of October, 1824.

Signed, **F. DE LA GARZA.**

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